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Parking Improvements Made in Downtown Troy

For Immediate Release
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(March 31, 2004- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Thursday the City is in the process of changing several policies in the downtown shopping area to improve parking visibility for visitors.

The first of the changes is taking place in the State Street parking garage, where ten parking meters were removed on Wednesday and replaced with ten free two-hour parking spots. In addition to the spots, the City began a series of improvements Thursday to improve the corridor of the garage through pressure washing, painting, replacing old doors and increasing greenery to give the garage a more inviting feel.

Tutunjian said the City is adding signs in the coming months pointing visitors to the garage for free parking. During the nights and weekends, the entire garage is free to use for all visitors or residents.

“In the past few weeks we have heard from business owners that there is a need for more parking near the River Street Antiques District,” Tutunjian said. “By providing an additional ten spots, and beautifying the area inside and around the garage, we hope to invite more people to use the facility. Some people are not aware that parking in the garage is free on weekends. That is an amenity we are going to make more aware to the visitors of Troy.”

Tutunjian also announced that in the coming weeks ten more metered spots in the parking lot at Fifth Avenue and Congress Street will be removed and replaced with two hour parking to help other businesses in downtown.

With free spots available in the garage, and 5th Avenue lot, for two hours each day, Tutunjian said there is the possibility that people will abuse the privilege. With that in mind the City has already hired an additional parking enforcement officer, and will soon hire another as well.

“It is important that these spots are allowed to remain open throughout the day, and that ten cars do not go in the garage at 9 a.m. and sit there until they leave at 5 p.m.,” Tutunjian said. “Enforcement will be stepped up, and we believe that these additional spots will not only help the short term problem, but also lend itself towards more people using the garage on weekends.”

Dana Rudolph, from the Dana Rudolph and Company shop on River Street is pleased with the new spots, and believes it will hopefully allow for continued growth of the area.

“We’re hoping that the new spaces in the State Street parking garage will help our businesses continue to grow and thrive,” Rudolph said.